

***Superseded 5/12/2015***

**62A-4a-209 Emergency placement.**

- (1) As used in this section:
  - (a) "Nonrelative" means an individual, other than a noncustodial parent or a relative.
  - (b) "Relative" is as defined in Subsection 78A-6-307(1)(b).
- (2) The division may use an emergency placement under Subsection 62A-4a-202.1(4)(b)(ii) when:
  - (a) the case worker has made the determination that:
    - (i) the child's home is unsafe;
    - (ii) removal is necessary under the provisions of Section 62A-4a-202.1; and
    - (iii) the child's custodial parent or guardian will agree to not remove the child from the home of the person that serves as the placement and not have any contact with the child until after the shelter hearing required by Section 78A-6-306;
  - (b) a person, with preference being given in accordance with Subsection (4), can be identified who has the ability and is willing to provide care for the child who would otherwise be placed in shelter care, including:
    - (i) taking the child to medical, mental health, dental, and educational appointments at the request of the division; and
    - (ii) making the child available to division services and the guardian ad litem; and
  - (c) the person described in Subsection (2)(b) agrees to care for the child on an emergency basis under the following conditions:
    - (i) the person meets the criteria for an emergency placement under Subsection (3);
    - (ii) the person agrees to not allow the custodial parent or guardian to have any contact with the child until after the shelter hearing unless authorized by the division in writing;
    - (iii) the person agrees to contact law enforcement and the division if the custodial parent or guardian attempts to make unauthorized contact with the child;
    - (iv) the person agrees to allow the division and the child's guardian ad litem to have access to the child;
    - (v) the person has been informed and understands that the division may continue to search for other possible placements for long-term care, if needed;
    - (vi) the person is willing to assist the custodial parent or guardian in reunification efforts at the request of the division, and to follow all court orders; and
    - (vii) the child is comfortable with the person.
- (3) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (5), before the division places a child in an emergency placement, the division:
  - (a) may request the name of a reference and may contact the reference to determine the answer to the following questions:
    - (i) would the person identified as a reference place a child in the home of the emergency placement; and
    - (ii) are there any other relatives or friends to consider as a possible emergency or long-term placement for the child;
  - (b) shall have the custodial parent or guardian sign an emergency placement agreement form during the investigation;
  - (c)
    - (i) if the emergency placement will be with a relative of the child, shall comply with the background check provisions described in Subsection (7); or
    - (ii) if the emergency placement will be with a person other than a noncustodial parent or a relative, shall comply with the criminal background check provisions described in Section 78A-6-308 for adults living in the household where the child will be placed;

- (d) shall complete a limited home inspection of the home where the emergency placement is made; and
  - (e) shall have the emergency placement approved by a family service specialist.
- (4)
- (a) The following order of preference shall be applied when determining the person with whom a child will be placed in an emergency placement described in this section, provided that the person is willing, and has the ability, to care for the child:
    - (i) a noncustodial parent of the child in accordance with Section 78A-6-307;
    - (ii) a relative of the child;
    - (iii) subject to Subsection (4)(b), a friend designated by the custodial parent or guardian of the child, if the friend is a licensed foster parent; and
    - (iv) a shelter facility, former foster placement, or other foster placement designated by the division.
  - (b) Unless the division agrees otherwise, the custodial parent or guardian described in Subsection (4)(a)(iii) may designate up to two friends as a potential emergency placement.
- (5)
- (a) The division may, pending the outcome of the investigation described in Subsections (5)(b) and (c), place a child in emergency placement with the child's noncustodial parent if, based on a limited investigation, prior to making the emergency placement, the division:
    - (i) determines that the noncustodial parent has regular, unsupervised visitation with the child that is not prohibited by law or court order;
    - (ii) determines that there is not reason to believe that the child's health or safety will be endangered during the emergency placement; and
    - (iii) has the custodial parent or guardian sign an emergency placement agreement.
  - (b) Either before or after making an emergency placement with the noncustodial parent of the child, the division may conduct the investigation described in Subsection (3)(a) in relation to the noncustodial parent.
  - (c) Before, or within one day, excluding weekends and holidays, after a child is placed in an emergency placement with the noncustodial parent of the child, the division shall conduct a limited:
    - (i) background check of the noncustodial parent, pursuant to Subsection (7); and
    - (ii) inspection of the home where the emergency placement is made.
- (6) After an emergency placement, the division caseworker must:
- (a) respond to the emergency placement's calls within one hour if the custodial parents or guardians attempt to make unauthorized contact with the child or attempt to remove the child;
  - (b) complete all removal paperwork, including the notice provided to the custodial parents and guardians under Section 78A-6-306;
  - (c) contact the attorney general to schedule a shelter hearing;
  - (d) complete the placement procedures required in Section 78A-6-307; and
  - (e) continue to search for other relatives as a possible long-term placement, if needed.
- (7)
- (a) The background check described in Subsection (3)(c)(i) shall include:
    - (i) completion of a nonfingerprint-based, Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification background check; and
    - (ii) a completed search of the Management Information System described in Section 62A-4a-1003.
  - (b) The division shall determine whether a person passes the background check described in this Subsection (7) pursuant to the provisions of Subsections 62A-2-120(2), (3), and (8).

- (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (7)(b), the division may not place a child with an individual who is prohibited by court order from having access to that child.